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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,584	03/30/2004	Sanjeev M. Naik	GP-303148	3248

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EXAMINER

TRAN, BINH Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3748

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1, 9-11, 19-21, and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Litorell et al. (Litorell) (Patent Number 6,609,364).

Regarding claims 1, 11, and 21, Litorell discloses a method for controlling a direct-injection gasoline engine (1) during regeneration of a lean NOx trap (18) disposed in an exhaust path of the engine, the regeneration characterized by a transition from lean stratified engine operation to rich homogeneous engine operation, comprising: upon initiation of a lean NOx trap regeneration event, determining a current air-fuel ratio and comparing the current air-fuel ratio to

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a lean limit air-fuel ratio; delaying the transition from lean stratified engine operation to rich homogeneous engine operation until the current air-fuel ratio reaches the lean limit air-fuel ratio (e.g. See col. 5, lines 6-45); and initiating transition from lean stratified engine operation to rich homogeneous engine operation when the current air-fuel ratio reaches the lean limit air-fuel ratio (e.g. See col. 7, lines 45-67; cols. 8-10, lines 1-67).

Regarding claims 9, 19, and 29, Litorell discloses setting the desired exhaust gas recirculation mass to zero (e.g. See col. 7, lines 45-67; cols. 8-10, lines 1-67).

Regarding claims 10, 20, and 30, Litorell discloses controlling engine torque based upon driver demand (e.g. See col. 7, lines 45-67; cols. 8-10, lines 1-67).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-8, 12-18, and 22-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Since allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant is encouraged to submit formal drawings in response to this Office action. The early submission of formal drawings will permit the Office to review the drawings for acceptability and to resolve any informalities remaining therein before the application is passed to issue. This will avoid possible delays in the issue process.

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of five patents:

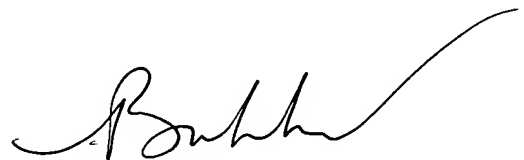
Okamoto et al. (Pat. No. 6620392), Nakagawa et al. (Pat. No. 6782694), Yoshida et al. (Pat. No. 6708668), Kubo et al. (Pat. No. 6539709), and Mizuno et al. (Pat. No. 6065443) all discloses an exhaust gas purification for use with an internal combustion engine.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Binh Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reach on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



BT
August 04, 2005

Binh Q. Tran
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3748